

Amendments to the Claims:

Kindly cancel claims 10 and 12-19 without prejudice to their later reentry.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Twice amended) An acrylic composition comprising a matrix of polymethyl methacrylate, said matrix comprising a mixture of a syrup of partially polymerized methyl methacrylate containing about 25% of polymethyl methacrylate solids with excess methyl methacrylate monomer, said matrix of polymethyl methacrylate having dispersed within it particles comprising [75] 80 to 90 weight percent polymethyl methacrylate and greater than 10 to 20 [25] weight percent of a comonomer comprising an ethylenically unsaturated monomer that copolymerizes with [methylethylmethacrylate] methyl methacrylate, wherein said particles comprise more than 0.4 weight percent of a crosslinker.
9. (Amended) An acrylic composition as in claim 1, wherein said particles have a particle size of 250-600 microns prior to mixing said particles with said matrix.
20. The acrylic composition of claim 1 wherein said particles are present in an amount of 5 to 20 weight percent of the acrylic composition.
21. The acrylic composition of claim 1 wherein said matrix is present in an amount of 80 to 95 percent of the acrylic composition.
22. An acrylic composition consisting of a matrix of polymethyl methacrylate having dispersed within it particles comprising 80 to 88 weight percent polymethyl methacrylate and 12 to 20 weight percent of a comonomer comprising an ethylenically unsaturated monomer that copolymerizes with methyl methacrylate, wherein said particles comprise more than 0.4 weight percent of a crosslinker, said acrylic composition further including one or more additives or adjuvants selected from colorants, initiators and surfactants.
23. The acrylic composition of claim 22, wherein said comonomer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, t-butyl

acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, propyl methacrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate and isobutyl methacrylate.

24. The acrylic composition of claim 23, wherein said comonomer is selected from the group consisting of butyl acrylate and ethyl acrylate.

25. The acrylic composition of claim 22, wherein said crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of allyl methacrylate, allyl acrylate, triallyl phosphate, diallyl maleate, methallyl acrylate, vinyl methacrylate, divinyl benzene, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, diethylene glycol dimethacrylate, triethylene glycol dimethacrylate and mixtures thereof.

26. The acrylic composition of claim 25, wherein said crosslinker is ethylene glycol dimethacrylate.

27. The acrylic composition of claim 22, wherein said crosslinker is used in an amount of 0.5 to 1.5 weight percent.

28. The acrylic composition of claim 27, wherein said crosslinker is used in an amount of 0.6 to 1.0 weight percent.

29. The acrylic composition of claim 22, wherein said particles have a particle size of 250-600 microns prior to mixing said particles with said matrix.

30. The acrylic composition of claim 22 wherein said particles are present in an amount of 5 to 20 weight percent of the acrylic composition.

31. The acrylic composition of claim 22 wherein said matrix is present in an amount of 80 to 95 percent of the acrylic composition.

32. A method of preparing an article comprising:
- a) forming an acrylic composition comprising a matrix of polymethyl methacrylate, said matrix comprising a mixture of a syrup of partially polymerized methyl methacrylate containing about 25% of polymethyl methacrylate solids with excess methyl methacrylate monomer, said matrix of polymethyl methacrylate having dispersed within it particles comprising 80 to 90 weight percent polymethyl methacrylate and greater than 10 to 20 weight percent of a comonomer comprising an ethylenically unsaturated monomer that copolymerizes with methyl methacrylate, wherein said particles comprise more than 0.4 weight percent of a crosslinker;
 - b) curing said acrylic composition; and
 - c) thermoforming the cured acrylic composition.
33. The method of claim 32, wherein said comonomer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, propyl methacrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate and isobutyl methacrylate.
34. The method of claim 33, wherein said comonomer is selected from the group consisting of butyl acrylate and ethyl acrylate.
35. The method of claim 32, wherein said crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of allyl methacrylate, allyl acrylate, triallyl phosphate, diallyl maleate, methallyl acrylate, vinyl methacrylate, divinyl benzene, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, diethylene glycol dimethacrylate, triethylene glycol dimethacrylate and mixtures thereof.
36. The method of claim 35, wherein said crosslinker is ethylene glycol dimethacrylate.
37. The method of claim 32, wherein said crosslinker is used in an amount of 0.5 to 1.5 weight percent.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein said crosslinker is used in an amount of 0.6 to 1.0 weight percent.

39. The method of claim 32, wherein said particles have a particle size of 250-600 microns prior to mixing said particles with said matrix.

40. The method of claim 32 wherein said particles are present in an amount of 5 to 20 weight percent of the acrylic composition.

41. The method of claim 32 wherein said matrix is present in an amount of 80 to 95 percent of the acrylic composition.

Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c)

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-9 and 20-41 are pending.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended.

Claims 20-41 are new.

Claims 2 and 10-19 have been cancelled.

Support for Amendments and New Claims

A. Amendments

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 9 can be found at, e.g.,

Col. 4, lines 15-20 and 52-58; and

Col. 3, lines 18-20.

B. New Claims

Support for new claims 20-21 can be found at, e.g.,

Col. 4, lines 52-56.

Support for new claims 22-31 can be found at, e.g.,

Col. 3, lines 18-20, 23-40 and 62; and

Col. 4, lines 15-20 and 52-58.

Support for new claims 32-41 can be found at, e.g.,

Col. 3, lines 18-20, 23-40 and 62;

Col. 4, lines 15-20 and 52-58; and

Col. 5, lines 5-21.